

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer ribbed surface ~~non-helically positioned about a central axis~~, said outer ribbed surface including at least one peak and at least one valley each extending non-helically about said outer ribbed surface, each said at least one peak and said at least one valley positioned on an independent plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis;

a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner ribbed surface complementary to said at least one peak[[s]] and said at least one valley[[s]] of said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, and an outer surface positioned about a central axis;

said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member being constructed and arranged for coaxial alignment and overlapping engagement with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, said compression ring member linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said

collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position, wherein said engaged position results in said outer ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member which is adapted to engage a shank member having an outer gripping surface and wherein said release position results in said at least one peak[[s]] of said collet member being disposed in said at least one valley[[s]] of said compression ring for expansion of said collet member which is thereby adapted to release ~~an~~ said outer gripping surface of a shank member.

Claim 2. (Previously Presented) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said shank member includes a first end and a second end.

Claim 3. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said ribbed outer surface of said collet member includes at least one outwardly and circumferentially extending rib, each said rib including a first ramp surface to facilitate coaxially aligned linear overlapping movement of said compression ring in relation to said collet member for engagement thereof, and

a second ramp surface to facilitate linear removal of said compression ring from said collet member.

Claim 4. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface of said collet member is constructed and arranged with a conjugate shape in relation to said outer gripping surface of said shank member.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) The precise linear fastener of claim 1 wherein said inner engaging surface of said collet member is constructed and arranged with internal threads.

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Cancelled)

Claim 10. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said first end of said shank member includes a tensioning means, said tensioning means being constructed and

arranged to allow said shank member to be tensilely loaded prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member.

Claim 11. (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 10 wherein said shank member tensioning means includes at least one internal bore extending inwardly from said first end of said shank member along the longitudinal centerline of said shank member, wherein said at least one internal bore is constructed and arranged for gripping and placing a tensile load on said shank member prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a collet member having a base end, a top end, an inner engaging surface, and an outer ribbed surface positioned about a central axis, said outer ribbed surface including at least one peak and at least one valley, each of said at least one peak and said at

least one valley constructed and arranged to extend non-helically around said outer ribbed surface each on an independent plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis; and

a compression ring member having a base end, a front end, an inner ribbed surface having at least one radially inwardly extending rib, and an outer surface positioned about a central axis;

said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member being constructed and arranged for coaxial alignment and overlapping engagement with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member, said compression ring member linearly traversable with respect to said outer ribbed surface of said collet member between a first release position and a second engaged position, wherein said engaged position results in said outer ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring compressing said collet member and tensilely loading said compression ring member to engage a shank member having an outer gripping surface whereby said collet member is clamped to the shank member, and wherein said release position results in expansion of said collet member thereby releasing the outer gripping surface of the shank member;

wherein said first end of said shank member includes a tensioning means, said tensioning means being constructed and

arranged to allow said shank member to be tensilely loaded prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collet member;

wherein said shank member tensioning means includes at least one internal bore extending inwardly from said first end of said shank member along the longitudinal centerline of said shank member, wherein said at lease one internal bore is constructed and arranged for gripping and placing a tensile load on said shank member prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said engagement position with respect to said collect member; and

wherein said internal bore includes internal threads.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 where said outer ribbed surface of said collet member and said inner ribbed surface of said compression ring member are constructed and arranged to maintain an axially aligned interfitting relationship in said release position.

Claim 18. (Cancelled)

Claim 19. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of plastic.

Claim 20. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of copper.

Claim 21. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of brass.

Claim 22. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of bronze.

Claim 23. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of aluminum.

Claim 24. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of steel.

Claim 25. (Original) The precise linear fastener system of claim 1 wherein said collet member is constructed of rubber.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A linear fastener system, comprising:

a collet member including an outer ribbed surface, said outer ribbed surface including at least one peak and at least one valley, each of said at least one peak and said at least one valley constructed and arranged to extend non-helically around said outer ribbed surface each on an independent plane that is substantially perpendicular to said central axis, and an inner surface adapted to grip a corresponding surface of a shank in a locked condition of said fastener system; and

a compression ring including an inner ribbed surface defining at least one peak[[s]] and at least one valley[[s]] corresponding to said at least one peak[[s]] and valley[[s]] of said collet member;

the linear fastener system having a locked condition wherein said at least one peak[[s]] of said collet member and said at least one peak[[s]] of said compression ring are in confronting alignment, and an unlocked condition wherein said at least one peak[[s]] of said collet member [[are]] disposed in said at least one valley of said compression ring, whereby said collet member is adapted to grip a shank in said locked condition without rotating said collet member.



Claim 27. (New) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a collet member having opposite first ends with a shank receiving first bore at least partially defined by an inner shank engaging surface, said collet member also including a outer first surface with at least one outwardly extending first rib and at least one first groove facing generally outwardly, said collet member having a longitudinal central axis, said at least one first rib extending about said outer surface non-helically and at least one said first rib and at least one said first groove extending about said first surface each in an independent plane substantially perpendicular to said central axis; and

a compression ring member having opposite second ends and a collet member receiving second bore defined by a collet member engaging inner second surface, said second surface including at least one inwardly extending second rib and at least one second groove facing generally inwardly, at least one of the first and second ribs being selectively receivable in a respective said second or first groove in a release position and at least one said first rib and a respective at least one said second rib being in confronting alignment in a lock position effecting radial compression of the collet member and tensile loading of the compression member to effect engagement of the inner shank engaging surface with a shank.

Claim 28. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 27 wherein the first bore is a thru bore.

Claim 29. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 27 wherein the second bore is a thru bore.

Claim 30. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 27 including a shank member positioned in the first bore.

Claim 31. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 30 wherein a first end of said shank member includes a tensioning means, said tensioning means being constructed and arranged to allow said shank member to be tensilely loaded prior to linear traversal of said compression ring member into said lock position.

Claim 32. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 27 wherein said first surface of said collet member including a first ramp surface extending between an adjacent said rib and said groove to facilitate coaxially aligned linear overlapping movement of said compression ring relative to said collet member between the release position and the lock position.

Claim 33. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 27 wherein said inner shank engaging surface of said collet member being constructed and arranged with internal threads.

Claim 34. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 27 wherein there being a plurality of said first ribs and a plurality of said second ribs.

Claim 35. (New) A precise linear fastener system comprising:  
a collet member with a shank receiving first bore lying along a longitudinal central axis of the collet member and including an outer ribbed first surface with at least one outwardly and circumferentially extending first rib and at least one outwardly opening and circumferentially extending first groove, said at least one first rib and first groove extending non-helically around the first surface each in an independent plane generally perpendicular to said central axis, said first bore being at least partially defined by a shank engaging surface;

a compression ring including an inner ribbed surface at least partially defining a second bore, said collet member being at least partially received in said second bore, said second bore having an inner ribbed second surface having at least one second rib and at

least one second groove whereby when the first and second ribs are in interfering contact, said collet member being radially compressed to provide a locked position and when not in interfering contact providing a release position; and

a shank positioned in the first bore and sized and shaped to be retained in the first bore by engagement with at least a portion of the shank engaging surface when the collet member and compression ring are in the locked position.

Claim 36. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 35 wherein said first surface of said collet member including a first ramp surface extending between an adjacent said first rib and said first groove to facilitate coaxially aligned linear overlapping movement of said compression ring relative to said collet member between the release position and the lock position.

Claim 37. (New) The precise linear fastener system of claim 35 wherein there being a plurality of said first ribs and a plurality of said second ribs.

Claim 38. (New) A precise linear fastener system comprising:

a shank having an outer first surface and opposite first end portions;

a collet member having opposite second ends and a shank receiving first bore at least partially defined by an inner shank engaging second surface, said collet member also including an outer compression ring engaging third surface and a longitudinal central axis, said collet member being radially compressible to provide a selective locking engagement between the first surface and the second surface;

a compression ring having opposite third ends and a collet member receiving second bore at least partially defined by an inner collet member engaging fourth surface, the second bore having at least a portion being sized to provide an interference fit with at least a portion of the third surface to effect compression of the collet member and the locking engagement between the second surface and the first surface by relative longitudinal movement between the compression ring and the collet member;

and wherein at least one of the third surface and the fourth surface having at least two longitudinally spaced and circumferentially extending first ribs separated by a circumferentially extending first groove therebetween and the other of the third and fourth surfaces having at least one circumferentially extending second rib sized and shaped for an

interfering fit with a respective said first rib to provide radial compression of the collet member and tension in the compression ring to lock the shank in the first bore and having a longitudinally extending second groove adjacent a respective second rib for selectively receiving a respective first rib therein and at least one second rib being selectively receivable in a respective first groove to provide a shank release position.